

# Temple News

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*Monthly Newsletter for Solomon's Temple Church*

*www.solomonstemplechurch.net*

## Merry Christmas

### December 2022

#### **5 Biblical Dreams That Made Christmas Happen** by: *Rick Hamlin*

How the life of a newborn baby was protected.

When I think of Christmas, I think of angels. The angel that appeared to Mary, the angels that came to the shepherds, the angel that told Joseph not to call off his marriage plans when he learned that she was with child. But wait a minute. Take that last one. Look again. The angel that spoke to Joseph, explaining just Who had fathered this child Mary was carrying and what that boy should be named, *that* angel appeared to Joseph in a dream. Dreams. By my count, there are five dreams that kept the Christmas story going and preserved the life of that newborn baby.

Start with Joseph. He was disconcerted that his betrothed was with child when he knew he hadn't touched her and instead of making a big to-do about it, surely giving the gossips of Nazareth something to gab about, he was going to quietly break things off.

Then the angel came to him in the dream. And he did exactly what the angel told him to do. We don't know a lot about Joseph, but it says a lot about his spiritual side that he could receive such a dream and honor it completely. Would I do the same? Would you?

The next dream that comes to Joseph is a warning of Herod's jealous wrath after the baby is born. This child's life is in danger. The Judean king has learned that there is a king—born in the most humble circumstances—who could usurp his power.

In one of the most horrifying incidents in the Bible, Herod is willing to murder all the infant boys in Bethlehem—the Slaughter of the Innocents—to rid himself of this heavenly pretender. But thanks to the warning that comes in Joseph's dream, the couple goes to Egypt—just like the Joseph of the Technicolor Dreamcoat once did—until the coast is clear.

There Joseph has a third dream letting him know that Herod is dead. It's safe to return. You probably don't remember his fourth dream (I didn't). It's a bit subtler. Warning him to avoid Herod's son who is now in power, going straight back to Nazareth.

Now for that fifth dream. This one comes to the wise men and once again concerns Herod. They had seen him on their way to Bethlehem, following the star and the predictions of a newborn king.

The ever-crafty Herod told them to come back his way and tell him what they had seen—making no indication of his jealous rage. We don't know exactly which wise men had the dream. But the message is clear. Go back to the East a different way than how you've come.

What I find significant in all these instances is how God uses dreams to ensure that the divine plans are fulfilled. These men had dreams and honored them. Can we not do the same?





Pastor K. D. J. Co-Pastor E. R. Shivers

Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love Divine; Love was born at Christmas, Star and angels gave the sign. Worship we the Godhead, Love Incarnate, Love Divine; Worship we our Jesus: But wherewith for sacred sign? Love shall be our token, Love be yours and love be mine, Love to God and all men, Love for plea and gift and sign. Remember, Jesus is the Reason for the Season. Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas.

Love Pastor and Co-Pastor Shivers

“Bless us Lord, this Christmas, with quietness of mind; Teach us to be patient and always to be kind.” Helen Steiner Rice

### What Are You Giving Jesus This Christmas? By: Heidi Gaul

*On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Matthew 2:11 (NIV)*

Christmas is almost here. Many of us are spending time shopping for gifts for loved ones. Some are baking, some are volunteering, and some are decorating. That's what I'm doing this week. As my husband and I set up our white porcelain nativity set, my hand rests on one of the wise men. He's traveled a long way and is tired, but he's kneeling before the infant King, a look of deep reverence on his face. He's holding an urn, stretching his arms toward Jesus. The other wise men seem expectant, eager as children to present Him with their treasures. In his bed of straw, Jesus is napping. I sigh as I rearrange a few of the animals and push the wise men closer. This is peace. Soon we'll begin our family traditions. Baking day is important. As all of us crowd the kitchen, scooping flour and adding extracts, laughter draws us closer. Then we'll handstamp our wrapping paper and tags, stealing an opportunity to slow down and be creative. We'll attend the Christmas Eve candlelight service and share a German apple puff pancake on Christmas morning. But this year, I want to give Jesus something. Something precious and irreplaceable, something worth more than gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Something beyond tithing and even volunteering. I'm anticipating how much this gift will please Him. Because I plan to give Him *everything* this season. All my hopes, dreams, talents, and trust. All my love. All of me. Every single bit. Just like He did for me.

**Faith Step:** *You can give everything to Jesus. What have you held back? Give Him every bit of you. That's exactly what He*



### The Birth of Jesus: A Christmas Story Told Through Bible Verses by Ashley Latee



Celebrate Jesus' birth and enjoy the Christmas story as told through Bible verses from award-winning Puerto Rican illustrator Raul Colon.

**Luke 1:26-31** - God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David's house. The virgin's name was Mary. When the angel came to her, he said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!" She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus."

**Luke 2:8-12** - Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger."

**Matthew 2:1-3, 7-8** - After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him." When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child."

**Luke 2:1, 4-7** - In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger.

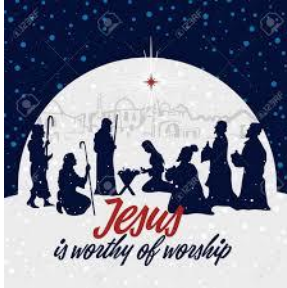
**Luke 2:19-20** - Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.



# December Kingdom Schedule

## Worship Leaders Schedule

12/4 Co-Pastor Edith Shivers  
 12/11 Bro. James Green, Sr.  
 12/18 Elder Sarah Hatton  
 12/25 MIT Kinston Shivers



## Door Opener

Bro. Grayland Robinson

## Servant Leaders Schedule

12/4 Sis. Lucy Watkins  
 12/11 Bro. James Green, Sr.  
 12/18 Sis. Phyllis Duck  
 12/25 Sis. Turekia White

## Communion

Sis. Wendy Green



## Bible Study and CID sessions for the month of December 2022

Teachers for the month: Elder Wayne Hatton, Min. Bertram Blackwell, MIT Kinston Shivers, Bro. Donald Watkins, and Bro. James Green, Sr.

12/6 Bro. Donald Watkins | Zacharias Speaks | Luke 1:57-66, 76-79  
 MIT Kinston Shivers | John the Baptist Appears | Luke 3:2b-6, 15-18

12/13 No CID session | Mary Rejoices | Luke 1:46-55  
 No CID session | God Promises to Hear and Forgive | 2 Chronicles 7:12-22

12/20 No CID session or Bible Study

12/27 No CID session or Bible Study



Youth Teachers  
 Joseph Tribe



**“A Christian leader is one who knows the way, shows the way, and goes the way.”**

## Newsletter Submissions

Do you know someone who is doing great things in the community, school, or church? Nominate him or her to be the Solomonite of the Month. This person can be a youth or an adult. Don't forget to recognize those celebrating an anniversary, graduation (from high school, college, or any other), promotions or special occasions. We also want to know about students who have made the honor roll. Let's not forget baby announcements, bible humor or recipes. If you have a story or idea that you would like to incorporate into the newsletter, forward the story to the church administrator at [stsecretary1@gmail.com](mailto:stsecretary1@gmail.com).

## New To Solomon's Temple?

First of all, **WELCOME!** We are so pleased that you have come to visit our church. Whether you are just inquiring about our church, a new visitor, or simply want to see if Solomon's Temple is the right fit for you and your family, we are grateful to have you with us. We hope you will find your spiritual home here. Here at Solomon's Temple, we offer many exciting ministries to assist in your daily walk. Solomon's Temple New Disciple Orientation sessions provide information about our church, what we offer and what to expect from your church family. **If you have any questions, please contact Elder Sarah Hatton, Elder Wayne Hatton, or Sis. Phyllis Duck.**

# December Schedule of Events<sup>4</sup>

Date	Time	Event
12/1/22	6:30pm	Mass Choir rehearsal
12/4/22		2023 Accept/Decline forms due
12/5/22	6:30pm	Solomon's Council Zoom meeting
12/6/22	6:30pm	CID session
12/7/22	6:00am	Intercessory Prayer
12/8/22	5:30pm	Youth Choir rehearsal
12/8/22	6:00pm	Mass Choir rehearsal
12/8/22	7:00pm	Young Adult Praise Team rehearsal
12/11/22	3:00pm-5:00pm	Solomon's Temple Christmas Candlelight Concert
12/12/22	6:30pm	Solomon's Council Zoom meeting
12/13/22	6:30pm	Christmas Dinner Party; Don't forget to wear your Christmas sweater!!
12/14/22	6:00am	Intercessory Prayer
12/15/22	6:30pm	No Choir rehearsal
12/20/22		No CID session or Bible Study
12/21/22	6:00am	Intercessory Prayer
12/22/22		No Choir rehearsal
12/24/22		Christmas Eve
12/25/22		Christmas Day – Merry Christmas
12/27/22		No CID session or Bible Study
12/28/22	6:00am	Intercessory Prayer
12/29/22		No Choir rehearsal
12/31/22		New Year's Eve
12/31/22	3:00pm	New Year's Eve service

## Solomon's Temple New Year's Eve Service

Saturday, December 31, 2022

3:00 p.m.

*Walking in the Power and Purpose of God*



Pastor & Co-Pastor Shivers  
Tag-Team Preaching

Disciples are asked to wear an orange, red, blue, or black t-shirt with blue jeans and sneakers.

"I truly believe that if we keep telling the Christmas story, singing the Christmas songs, and living the Christmas spirit, we can bring joy and happiness and peace to this world." ~ Norman Vincent Peale

# December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1. 6:30pm Mass Choir rehearsal	2.	3.
4. 2023 Accept and Decline forms due	5. 6:30pm Solomon Council Zoom meeting	6. 6:30pm CID session	7. 6:00am Intercessory Prayer	8. Choir Rehearsals 5:30pm Youth Choir 6:00pm Mass Choir 7:00pm Young Adult Praise Team	9.	10.
11. 3:00pm-5:00pm Solomon' s Temple Christmas Candlelight Concert	12. 6:30pm Solomon Council Zoom meeting	13. 6:30pm Christmas Dinner Party No CID session	14. 6:00am Intercessory Prayer	15. No Choir rehearsal	16.	17.
18.	19.	20. No CID session or Bible Study	21. 6:00am Intercessory Prayer	22. No Choir rehearsal	23.	24. Christmas Eve
25. Merry Christmas	26.	27. No CID session or Bible Study	28. 6:00am Intercessory Prayer	29. No Choir rehearsal	30.	31. 3:00pm New Year' s Eve service New Year' s Eve

## Verse of the Month

I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please'(Isaiah 46:10).





## Prayer List

Pastor K. D. & Co-Pastor E. R. Shivers  
 Bro. Joe & Sis. Lonnie Batten  
 Sis. Vernell Brown  
 Sis. Mary Diggs  
 Sis. Connie Payne  
 Sis. Ruby Clarke  
 Bro. Charles Turner  
 Bro. Junious Little  
 Bro. Willie & Sis. Florence Turner  
 Sis. Angela Batten  
 Sis. Phyllis Wiggins  
 Bro. Stanley & Sis. Dorothy Robinson  
 Bereaved Families



*Prayer is the most important conversation of the day!!*

## December Birthdays – Happy Birthday

Kimesia Burrell	December 10 <sup>th</sup>
Dana Cary	December 20 <sup>th</sup>
Christian Turner	December 24 <sup>th</sup>
Mor'Netra Johnson	December 24 <sup>th</sup>
Melvin Turner, Sr.	December 26 <sup>th</sup>
Jordan Elliott	December 30 <sup>th</sup>
Travis "TJ" Holloway, Jr.	December 30 <sup>th</sup>



## December Anniversary - Happy Anniversary



**December 21<sup>st</sup>**  
 Sherman & Shirley Haskins



An anniversary is a time to celebrate the joys of today, the memories of yesterday and the hopes of tomorrow.

## Servant Leaders Invitation to Discipleship December 2022 Schedule

Sis. W. Johnson, Sis. K. Greene and Sis. L. Watkins

mark your **Calendar**

### Swearing In Ceremony

I would like to extend an invitation to you and your congregation to attend the Swearing In Ceremony of the new Town Council members on Tues., January 3, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the Smithfield Center, right before the first Town Council meeting of the year. Your presence would be greatly appreciated. *With best regards,*  
 Valerie Cofer Butler

## Solomon's Temple Youth Recognition 6



*Congratulations* to Seniah for ending the 2021-2022 school year with straight A's, and for starting the 2022-2023 school year off on the principles list straight A's. You go Seniah we are so proud of you.



*Congratulations* to Kristiana's Recognition for the Superintendent's All A's List for the 2021-22 School year.



*Honor Roll Student  
Congratulations* to Jay'Vion Pierce for making all A's on his report card this term.



"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Colossians 3:17, NIV









The purpose of the Bereavement Ministry is to provide comfort and support to disciples of Solomon's Temple during time of loss of a loved one, and to show love to our disciples and assure them that they are not alone during this difficult time in their lives. We have "Spiritual Support Care Teams" available to assist you.

**December Spiritual Support Team**

Sis. Lucy Watkins and Co-Pastor Edith Shivers



He gives us **comfort** in all our troubles. Then we can **comfort** other people who have the same troubles. We give the same kind of **comfort** God gives us." **2 Corinthians 1:4**

**Solomon's Temple Outreach Ministry Is in Full Effect!**

Please let us know if anyone is in the hospital, in-outpatient surgeries and death in the family or any other life changing event (medical or death). We have "**Care Teams**" for each month that is willing and ready to contact you. We love our church family, and we believe love is not what it says – it's what it does.

**December Care Team**

Bro. Donald Watkins, Sis. Darnelle Jefferson and Sis. Crystal Wrenn-Combs

**Health Care Awareness for the month of December 2022**

**National Influenza Vaccination Week: Matte Article (December 5<sup>th</sup> – December 9<sup>th</sup>)**

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/resource-center/nivw/matte-article.htm>

This winter, when you see signs reading "Get Your Flu Vaccine," you might ask "Isn't it too late to get vaccinated?" No, it's not too late! CDC recommends that flu vaccination efforts continue throughout flu season. "Flu seasons most often peak between December and February, but significant activity can occur as late as May," says Dr. Dan Jernigan, Director of the Influenza Division at CDC. Antibody protection will kick in about two weeks after vaccination. For millions of people every season, flu means a fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle aches, fatigue, and miserable days spent in bed. Millions of people get sick, hundreds of thousands are hospitalized, and thousands to tens of thousands of people die from flu each year. There is a vaccine that can help reduce the risk of flu and its potentially serious complications. While flu vaccines vary in how well they work, there are many studies that show that flu vaccination reduces flu illnesses, doctor visits, and missed work and school due to flu, as well as prevents flu-related hospitalizations and deaths. For those people at high risk of serious flu complications, getting a flu vaccine is especially important. "Getting a flu vaccine is simple, and it's the most important thing you can do to protect yourself and your family from flu," says Dr. Jernigan. Flu vaccines are offered in many locations, including doctor's offices, health departments, pharmacies, health centers, and travel clinics, as well as by many employers and schools. So, next time you see a sign that says, "Get Your Flu Vaccine Here," stop in and get one, and encourage your friends and family to do the same.

**O Holy Night (Everyday with Jesus by: David Jeremiah)**

Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them. Luke 2:20

For many people the true spirit of Christmas is experienced in the last few hours of Christmas Eve. Many churches have a Christmas Eve service as they commemorate and remember the birth of our Savior. Indeed, many non-Christians attend these services to catch an annual glimpse of the true meaning of Christmas.

Beautiful music, soft candlelight, the fellowship of like-minded souls, and a chance to hear the Christmas story read reverently – all this and more makes a Christmas Eve service a holy night for the Christian church. But it's not just the surroundings, meaningful as they are. Holiness is a matter of the heart above all else. And just as the shepherds left the holy stable where they found Jesus in Bethlehem and went back to their fields and their work glorifying and praising God, we should do the same. The holiness of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day should be a prelude to living a holy life that reflects what Christmas means to the follower of Jesus Christ.

Sanctify Christ in your heart today and make a commitment to live each moment and each day for Him in the coming years.

"A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn, fall on your knees!  
O hear the angels voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born, O night divine, O night, O night Divine"

